

REMARKS

This Amendment supplements the Amendment filed on March 20, 2003, which was filed in response to the January 14, 2003 final Office Action. Additionally, this Amendment is being filed in response to the April 17, 2003 Advisory Action, which denied entry of the March 20, 2003 Amendment.

Status of Claims and Amendments

Applicant has amended claims 4, 7 and 12 by the current Amendment, as indicated above. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended for reasons ***unrelated*** to patentability. Claims 4 and 7 were merely amended to better conform them to the claim language of independent claim 2. Additionally, Applicant has added new claims 14-20 by the current Amendment. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending, with claims 1, 2 and 16 being the only independent claims. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 14-20 by the current Amendment. New claims 14 and 15, which depend from independent claim 2, require a cable operated winding mechanism disposed in an outer casing, in which the cable operated winding mechanism has a cable attachment point disposed relative to an access opening to be accessible from the access opening; and a maintenance cover slidably coupled to the outer casing between a ***fully closed position overlying the access opening*** in which the ***cable attachment point is non-accessible*** and a fully open position exposing the access opening such that the ***cable attachment point is accessible through the access opening in the fully open position***.

Applicant believes this unique combination of features cited in these new dependent claims 14 and 15 is ***not*** disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

Regarding new claims 16-20, these claims recite a bicycle shift control device including an outer casing having a cable receiving bore and an access opening; a cable operated winding mechanism disposed in the outer casing, in which the cable operated winding mechanism has a cable attachment point disposed relative to the access opening to be accessible from the access opening; and a maintenance cover movably coupled to the outer casing between a ***closed position overlying the access opening*** in which the ***cable attachment point is non-accessible*** and an open position exposing the access opening such that the ***cable attachment point is accessible through the access opening in the open***

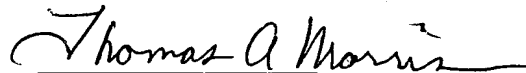
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Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2003

position. Applicant believes this unique combination of features cited in these new claims 16-20 is *not* disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

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In view of the foregoing Amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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